

NARCOTICS

Narcotics includes all incidents in which the police made an arrest, complaint, or warrant for the possession or distribution of illegal narcotics. Narcotics statistics do not include all instances of narcotics use or distribution; they only reflect those cases that are known to the police.

60 reported in first half 2003 • 64 reported in first half 2004

Geographic Breakdown of Drug Incidents

Neighborhood	Jan-June 2002	Jan-June 2003	Jan-June 2004
East Cambridge	6	16	5
MIT	1	0	0
Inman/Harrington	1	7	10
Area 4	9	10	8
Cambridgeport	8	7	9
Mid-Cambridge	5	3	4
Riverside	11	5	7
Agassiz	1	1	0
Peabody	0	2	5
West Cambridge	2	1	4
North Cambridge	5	5	10
Cambridge Highlands	1	1	1
Strawberry Hill	3	2	1
TOTAL	53	60	64

The number of incidents involving drug sales/trafficking or possession increased slightly in the first half of 2004. Note that for these purposes, narcotics "incidents" include all arrests, complaints or warrants issued for drug possession or distribution. An increase in incidents can often be attributed to the diligence of the Special Investigations Unit (SIU), and does not necessarily indicate an increase in drug sales or trafficking.

Drug Tip Hotline

The Special Investigations Unit employs an anonymous Drug Tip Hotline to gain intelligence information from the community. The Unit can be reached by calling **617-349-3359**. Generally, you will be greeted by a taped message instructing you to leave very detailed information. **You do not have to provide any personal information and all information is held in confidence.**

Drug activity throughout the City continues to be suppressed due to the combined forces of citizens, patrol officers, and the Special Investigations Unit (SIU). The observations of citizens and patrol officers are valuable in the fight against the presence of narcotics in our community. The Special Investigations Unit, through surveillance and investigation, works to combat the proliferation of organized narcotic activities. Sixty-four drug incidents led to seventy-five arrests. Inman/Harrington and North Cambridge led all neighborhoods in drug incidents with ten each. Agassiz and MIT each reported no incidents.

Thirty-two incidents involved the possession of a narcotic for personal use. Another twenty-one reports were for drug possession with intent to distribute. The eleven remaining reports consisted of the sale of trafficking of drugs. Most prolific on the streets of Cambridge is the drug marijuana, which account for almost half of all incidents throughout the city, thirty in total. Followed by "pot" was coke/crack with seventeen, heroin with eight and prescription drugs with five. Many of the possession of drug arrests occurred on the streets and parks throughout Cambridge. Some of the larger trafficking and possession with intent busts were done by the SIU after surveillance on suspected drug residences.

Understanding Narcotics

Note: The following information was gathered from the following sources: <http://www.drugfreeamerica.com>; Massachusetts Drug Threat Assessment, published by the National Drug Intelligence Center of the U.S. Department of Justice; <http://www.erowid.org>; <http://www.gazettenet.com/12192002/news/2941.htm>; and http://www.Townonline.com/Lincoln/news/local_regional/lin_newljdrugs12242002.htm.

Heroin (AKA: dope, smack, horse, Jude, brown sugar, junk, black tar)

Heroin is a highly addictive drug derived from morphine, which is obtained from the opium poppy. It is a "downer" that affects the brain's pleasure systems and interferes with the ability to feel pain. Heroin can be used in many ways, depending on user preference and drug purity. Heroin is fast acting, especially when injected or smoked. Injected heroin reaches the brain in 15 to 30 seconds; smoked heroin in 7 seconds. The high from heroin is experienced as intense pleasure. Once a person begins using heroin, they quickly develop a tolerance to the drug and need more and more to get the same effects.

Epidemiologists agree that heroin is the most under-reported drug in terms of usage and that any usage statistics are unreliable. Estimates range from 428,000 past-year users (National Household Survey, 1995) to 600,000 past week heroin users (Office of National Drug Control Policy). On the other hand, some experts estimate that as many as 2 to 3 million people in the United States use heroin recreationally. In 1980 the average bag of street heroin was 4% pure; the average bag today is 40% pure and can be as pure as 70%. Increased purity results in snorting and smoking rather than injecting. Heroin use in the state has risen sharply over the last decade, particularly among young men ages 18-24, who are buying cheaper and purer forms of the drug.

Cocaine & Crack Cocaine (AKA: coke, snow, nose candy, flake, blow, big C, lady white, snowbirds, Scar face special, (crack only) rock, freebase, Manhattan marble)

Cocaine is a drug extracted from the leaves of the coca plant. It is a potent brain stimulant and one of the most powerfully addictive drugs. Cocaine is distributed on the street in two main forms: cocaine hydrochloride is a white crystalline powder that can be snorted or dissolved in water and injected; and "crack" is cocaine hydrochloride that has been processed with ammonia or sodium bicarbonate (baking soda) and water into a freebase cocaine. These chips, chunks, or rocks can be smoked.

Cocaine may be used occasionally, daily, or in a variety of compulsive, repeated-use "binges." Regardless of how it is used, cocaine is highly addictive. Crack cocaine and injected cocaine reach the brain quickly and bring an intense and immediate high. Snorted cocaine produces a high more slowly.

Cocaine can produce a surge in energy, a feeling of intense pleasure, and increased confidence. The effects of powder cocaine last about 20 minutes, while the effects of "crack" last about 12 minutes. Heavy use of cocaine may produce hallucinations, paranoia, aggression, insomnia, and depression. Cocaine's effects are short lived, and once the drug leaves the brain, the user experiences a "coke crash" that includes depression, irritability, and fatigue; and long term effects include heart problems, respiratory problems, sleep and appetite problems, and harm to developing children if used by a pregnant woman.

Designer Drugs

Designer drugs are a class of drugs often associated with "raves." Designer drugs are modifications of restricted drugs, made by underground chemists in order to create street drugs that are not specifically listed as controlled (i.e., restricted) substances by the Drug Enforcement Administration. Changing the molecular structure of an existing drug or drugs to create a new substance, like Ecstasy, creates a designer drug. The street names of designer drugs vary according to time, place, and manufacturer. Because unlicensed and untrained amateurs create designer drugs in clandestine laboratories, they can be extremely dangerous. In many cases, the designer drugs are more dangerous and more potent than the original drug.

The pharmaceutical drug, fentanyl, was originally created for anesthesia during surgeries. Designer drugs derived from fentanyl are extremely potent and have a strong potential for overdose. They have been associated with hundreds of unintentional deaths in the United States. They are also short lived, about 30 to 90 minutes. Increasingly the drug is sniffed or smoked, in part to avoid getting HIV via infected needles. The respiratory paralysis that may occur is so sudden after drug administration that often victims who injected the drug are found with the needle still in their arm.

OxyContin

OxyContin (oxycodone HCl controlled-release) is the brand name for an opioid analgesic - a narcotic. Oxycodone is the narcotic ingredient found in Percocet (oxycodone and acetaminophen) and Percodan (oxycodone and aspirin). OxyContin is used to treat pain that is associated with arthritis, lower back conditions, injuries, and cancer. OxyContin is available by prescription only. It is approved for the treatment of moderate to severe pain that requires treatment for more than a few days.

OxyContin abusers remove the sustained-release coating to get a rush of euphoria similar to heroin. They chew the tabs...crush them for snorting...or boil the powder for injection. The most serious risk associated with opioids, including OxyContin, is respiratory depression. Common opioid side effects are constipation, nausea, sedation, dizziness, vomiting, headache, dry mouth, sweating, and weakness. OxyContin is oxycodone in a sustained release form and that is why the tablet should not be broken. Taking broken, chewed, or crushed tablets could lead to the rapid release and absorption of a potentially toxic dose of oxycodone.

In 2001 and 2002, there was a surge in robberies of pharmacies carrying OxyContin in Massachusetts. There is so much money to make with OxyContin, that stealing and selling the drug has become irresistible to dealers and addicts who can get their hands on it. As a result, many pharmacies in the area have stopped stocking the drug in order to deter robbers.

MALICIOUS DESTRUCTION

Vandalism, or malicious destruction of property, includes tire-slashing, window-smashing, spray-painting, and myriad other crimes in which someone's property is willfully and maliciously damaged. It is the most commonly reported crime in Cambridge, yet we suspect that vandalism is one of the most underreported crimes; residents and businesses frequently ignore "minor" incidents of vandalism and graffiti.

474 reported in first half 2003 • 390 reported in first half 2004

Neighborhood	Jan-June 2003	Jan-June 2004
East Cambridge	68	41
MIT	10	5
Inman/Harrington	33	34
Area 4	39	33
Cambridgeport	86	59
Mid-Cambridge	40	34
Riverside	39	21
Agassiz	5	8
Peabody	29	50
West Cambridge	43	33
North Cambridge	56	39
Highlands	15	26
Strawberry Hill	11	7
Total	474	390

2003. Eleven of these reports of tire slashing occurred in a New Year's spree at the Fresh Pond Mall lots. There has only been one incident with a BB gun reported this year in the East Cambridge area. Acts of pinstriping destruction dropped from 45 in the first two quarters last year to 29 in the same period this year, partially due to the cooling down of hotspots on Elm St. and Rindge Ave. Vandalism of business windows and house windows also decreased slightly from 2003-04. The Cambridgeport and Riverside neighborhoods reported a combined 25 incidents of house and business window incidents in 2003, and only 12 in 2004.

There were 390 incidents of malicious destruction, or "vandalism," reported in the first half of 2004. This was a noticeable 18% decrease from the 474 in the first half in 2003. Sharp drop-offs in East Cambridge, West Cambridge, North Cambridge, Riverside and Cambridgeport contributed to this decrease. Neighborhoods such as Agassiz, Peabody, and Highlands had a significant increase, almost doubling in number from 2003. Revenge has shown to have the most significant increase jumping from 7 to 13 incidents in 2004. Graffiti is on a continuous incline. In the first weekend of June, there was a small spree where 11 reported vandalisms of graffiti occurred, nine of which were on cars, one on a fence, and one at the Tobin School. The wall at 33 Richdale Avenue remains a canvas for tagging; 6 out of 47 graffiti incidents occurred there. Eleven of the 13 neighborhoods reported at least one incident of graffiti. Peabody alone reported 14. There have been 46 incidents of tire slashing, which is 24 fewer than the first two quarters of

Destruction Act	Jan-June 2003	Jan-June 2004
Car Window	105	86
Car (Other)	85	68
Graffiti	32	47
Pinstriping	45	29
Tire Slashing	70	46
Business Window	34	19
Business (Other)	19	20
Attempted Theft	20	14
House Window	25	18
Residence (Other)	32	30
Revenge	7	13
Shop Damage	0	0
Miscellaneous	0	0
Total	474	390

FRAUD

The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting System does not include fraud, false pretenses, forgery, embezzlement, and confidence games among larceny. Yet in many cases, fraud is a much more serious crime than theft. Victims of check forgery and "con" games stand to lose thousands of dollars. Often added to this loss is the personal humiliation that accompanies being "duped" by a "con man." The confidence game crook, a particularly crafty breed of criminal who has no qualms with deceiving his victims face-to-face, expects (often correctly) that his victim's embarrassment will deter him or her from reporting the crime to the police.

200 reported in first half 2003 • 227 reported in first half 2004

During the first six months of 2004 there were a reported 227 incidents of fraud and forgery in Cambridge. This number is 14% more than was reported last year over the same time period. Across the nation, police departments are seeing fraud become an increasingly popular crime. Twenty individuals have been arrested for the various crimes falling under the fraud category since January 2004.

Counterfeiting

During the first half of 2004, there were eight incidents of counterfeiting. Seven of them were small incidents, but in one, a male was arrested on Brattle Street with a total of fifty-seven counterfeit \$100 notes. The individual had been purchasing small items under \$20 and receiving real currency in exchange.

Application

Four incidents of forged applications were reported, all at stores in the Cambridgeside Galleria. This was particularly a problem at Kay Jewelers, where this crime occurred three times. Individuals applied for jobs or opened accounts at the Best Buy and Kay Jewelers stores, but the suspect in the incident at Best Buy, who has been previously arrested for shoplifting from that store, fled before his application could go through.

Bad Check

This is defined as the writing of checks on insufficient funds or closed accounts. The Cambridge Police took seven reports for this crime in the first quarter of 2004, one of which resulted in an arrest at the Central Square Post Office.

Forged Check

Writing a forged check includes any incidents in which a suspect forges the signature of the victim, or changes the amount written on the check. There were 37 forged checks reported in the first half. The majority of these crimes occurred at stores located along Mass Ave.

ATM/Credit Card Fraud

There were 98 reports of ATM/credit card fraud in the first half of 2004, making it easily the most common fraud in Cambridge. "Check cards" are increasingly becoming more popular throughout the world. These cards facilitate the purchasing of goods by consumers, however they also allow easy access to victim's checking accounts by criminals. Major commercial areas such as the Galleria and Harvard Square are hotspots for this crime.

Embezzlement

This occurs when an employee takes advantage of his position for financial gain, diverting company funds to their own account. In Cambridge this crime most often involves juvenile store clerks. Retail stores in Harvard Square and the Galleria are most affected by this crime. There were five incidents of embezzlement in the first two quarters.

"Con" Games

Crime	Jan-June 2003	Jan-June 2004
Counterfeiting	7	8
Forgery/Uttering	179	201
- Identity Theft	44	47
- Application	2	4
- Bad Check	16	7
- Forged Check	37	37
- ATM/Credit Card	113	98
- Miscellaneous	11	8
Embezzlement	2	5
Con Games	12	13
- Big Carrot	2	6
- Utility Impostor	0	2
- Pigeon Drop	3	0
- Charity	0	0
- Psychic	1	0
- Miscellaneous	6	5

There were 13 swindles, con games or flim-flams in the first three months of 2004. Many of these incidents involve a suspect using a “con” in order to swindle money out of unsuspecting victims. One individual arrested in 2004 may be responsible for several incidents regarding the resale of plasma televisions around the Galleria mall.

SEX OFFENSES

Sex Offenses refers to six crimes of a sexual nature: prostitution and solicitation, indecent assault, indecent exposure, peeping and spying, annoying & accosting, and obscene telephone calls. Rape is not include because it is a Part I crime.

34 reported in first half 2003 • 43 reported in first half 2004

Annoying & Accosting

Annoying and accosting a member of the opposite sex is a form of criminal harassment. Often, it involves a man repeatedly following, shouting, making off-color suggestions, hooting, repeatedly asking for a date, or otherwise harassing a woman. It happens most often on the street and in the workplace. Each report involves an individual situation; the crime is not subject to geographic patterns. One suspect called 30-40 rooms at the Radisson claiming he was lonely and wanted to talk to someone. In another incident, a man approached a 10 year-old boy and his friends asking if they wanted any money, then stated, “Don’t be afraid, come to the store with me to buy some candy.”

Indecent Assault

Indecent assault is the unwanted touching of a person by another in a private area or with sexual overtones. Any incident where force or injury occurs would be considered an aggravated assault rather than an indecent assault. In most cases the victim knows the offender. This was true in eight of the incidents in this first half of 2004.

Seventeen incidents were reported in the first half of 2004, including a spree in Harvard Square that resulted in the

arrest of Geremias Cruz-Ramos, who later confessed to over 100 such assaults. There was another spree in January in Harvard Square; the suspect is a male who drove past his victims on a bike and grabbed them inappropriately.

Officers have also been paying special attention to area libraries because three sex offenders were arrested in libraries earlier this year. There is particular concern since so many children use these facilities. Officials are working together with the Director of Libraries and there are trespass notices against these offenders.

Crime	Jan-June 2003	Jan-June 2004
Annoying & Accosting	10	6
Indecent Assault	5	17
Peeping & Spying	6	5
Prostitution and Soliciting	0	0
Indecent Exposure	13	15

Peeping & Spying

Peeping and spying occurs most often when offenders will peer through windows of houses or apartments, generally at night. Five incidents were reported during the first half of 2004. The incidents were unrelated in nature. All the incidents this year have involved men peeking through the windows of women’s residences. The latest incident reported occurred on June 16 when a suspect was found peeping through a victim’s window with a video camera.

Prostitution & Soliciting Sex for a Fee

Prostitution is commonly associated with “streetwalking,” (prostitutes working the streets) but also includes escort services, where a “john” (client) will call and a prostitute will be sent to the “john’s” location. No prostitution arrests have been recorded in the first half of 2003 or 2004. In the 1990’s, the Special Investigations Unit proactively fought the visible “streetwalking” problem, nearly eradicating this problem in Cambridge.

Indecent Exposure

Indecent exposure is the offensive display of one’s body in public, especially the genitals, often done in a suggestive manner. The main offenders are vagrants or inebriated individuals urinating in public. There has been a large decrease in this type of crime, but there were fifteen in the first half this year. Six took place on Massachusetts Ave. Most of these were incidents of indiscretion. One incident resulted in an injury of a police officer’s leg when officers tried to arrest the suspect for masturbating in his car. He backed up over one, injuring the officer’s leg, and then fled.

OTHER PART II CRIMES

Under the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, any actual crime not recorded as a Part I Crime (Murder, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny and Auto Theft) is a Part II Crime. The relative infrequency of patterns and trends among these crimes discourages detailed analysis.

726 reported in first half 2003 • 659 reported in first half 2004

Crime	Jan-June 2003	Jan-June 2004
Disorderly Conduct	21	15
Drinking in Public	27	10
Extortion/Blackmail	1	3
Hit & Run Accidents	362	324
Kidnapping	1	0
Liquor Violations	1	4
OUI	31	24
Threatening	176	187
Traffic Arrests	53	52
Trespassing	45	28
Weapons Violations	8	12
Total	726	659

Disorderly Conduct

Police make an arrest for this crime when a person disrupts the peace enough to pose a danger. Examples include bar disputes, homeless altercations, and public shouting of profanity and threats. Almost all of the incidents (15, all of which resulted in arrests) occurred near Central and Harvard Square. Homeless persons are frequent offenders.

Drinking in Public

Eight out of ten of these incidents occurred around Central Square. Other locations where this activity is monitored include: Harvard, Inman, and the Porter

Square MBTA station-area. These areas are targeted due to the nightlife they attract also the large number of homeless around these areas.

Extortion/Blackmail

This is a rare crime, involving an offender taking money from a victim by threatening them with a nonviolent act. There have been no reports of this crime in the first quarter of 2004, however since then three have been reported. One including an individual arrested for collecting money from the victim's family in order to release the victim. The victim reported that she met a suspect who prostituted her in Chelsea at "the track." When the victim did not want to continue prostituting, she was assaulted by the suspect, who demanded she provide \$2000 for the money lost when she did not work. Only one out of three incidents resulted in arrest.

Hit and Run Accidents

There are 38 fewer hit and run incidents in the first half of 2004 than in 2003. About two thirds of incidents involved parked cars being hit by unknown suspects. Eleven incidents involved pedestrians being struck. This is two more than the same period in 2004.

Kidnapping

There were no incidents of kidnapping in the first half of 2004.

Liquor Violations

Liquor violations generally involve minors drinking, though it can also include the sale of liquor to a minor, or the unlicensed sale of liquor. There were four incidents of liquor violations in the first half, including the February sale of alcohol to minors at a convenience store in Harvard Square that led to a twelve-day suspension of the store's liquor license.

Operating Under the Influence (OUI)

Twenty-four incidents of OUI occurred in the first half of 2004, all of which resulted in arrests. Special attention is given to Harvard, Porter and Central Squares during high activity hours. The majority of incidents have occurred in the Cambridgeport and West Cambridge areas.

Threatening

A self-explanatory crime that often arises in domestic disputes, arguments between acquaintances and co-workers, school fights, and in other environments. There were 187 reported cases so far in 2004. Forty-eight of these cases were domestic related. Three resulted in arrests.

Traffic Arrests

The average traffic stop for speeding, running a red light, or related offenses results in only a warning or citation. Some traffic offenses, however, are crimes for which you can be arrested: driving to endanger, driving after suspension or revocation of a license, possession of a counterfeit inspection sticker, and attaching false license plates. Such arrests are often made during routine traffic stops, after the police officer learns of the driver's suspension or revocation. Traffic arrests have decreased significantly over the last two years because the courts have requested that summonses be issued for license suspension/ revocation offenses. In the first half of 2004 there were 52 traffic arrests. The majority of these arrests were due to suspects driving for suspended licenses.

Trespassing

Arrests for trespassing are generally made at establishments where the offender has been previously warned not to tread. Often, the same offender is arrested multiple times. Harvard, Inman, and the Porter Square T-area are locations where this activity is particularly monitored. These areas are targeted due to the nightlife they attract. Again, homeless persons are often arrested for this crime. There were 28 trespassing reports filed in the first half of 2004, resulting in 24 arrests.

Weapons Violations

Incidents in this category may include possession of weapons, the discharge of weapons within city limits and occasionally, bomb threats. Most often, these incidents involve arrested persons in possession of concealed weapons. In the first half of 2004, there were five reports of gunshots fired, including one incident at the Holiday Inn Express on Monsignor O'Brien Highway, which resulted in an arrest. At least three of these incidents may have been unfounded. In all, there were twelve incidents reported, three resulting in arrests.